

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No

PCT/EP 03/10976

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G01N35/00 B25J15/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01N B25J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EP0-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 305 650 A (MOCHIZUKI TOSHIYUKI ET AL) 26 April 1994 (1994-04-26)	1,11,14, 16-18
Y	column 2, line 1-68 column 3, line 1-4 column 5, line 29 -column 6, line 24 column 13, line 50 -column 14, line 44; figures 1,4-6,18	2-10,12, 13,29,30
Y	US 5 150 937 A (YAKOU TAKESHI) 29 September 1992 (1992-09-29) column 2, line 30-61 column 5, line 28-68 column 8, line 55-59 column 10, line 5-62 column 13, line 62 -column 14, line 29; figures 6,13,14	2-10
	-/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 May 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

07. 06. 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 492 023 A (KITAMURA HAJIME ET AL) 20 February 1996 (1996-02-20) column 3, line 3-30 column 4, line 14 -column 5, line 22; figure 1 ----	1, 10, 14, 16-18
Y	EP 0 348 077 A (YAMATO SCALE CO LTD) 27 December 1989 (1989-12-27) column 3, line 8-13; figure 3 ----	12, 13, 29, 30
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2002, no. 03, 3 April 2002 (2002-04-03) & JP 2001 310284 A (TOSHIBA MACH CO LTD), 6 November 2001 (2001-11-06) abstract ----	12, 13, 29, 30
A	GB 2 327 628 A (PEERLESS SYSTEMS LIMITED) 3 February 1999 (1999-02-03) page 2; figure 1 ----	12
A	FR 2 068 008 A (COMMISSARIAT ENERGIE ATOMIQUE) 20 August 1971 (1971-08-20) page 3, line 3-11; figures 1-3 ----	15
X	FR 2 714 465 A (MARTEAU D AUTRY ERIC) 30 June 1995 (1995-06-30) page 7, line 9-28; figures 1, 2, 8, 9 -----	19, 20

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.....ational application No.
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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☒ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
1-24, 29-32
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-10, 14, 16-18

1.1. Claims: 1-10

Workstation for providing samples comprising a gripper device with four supports means "fingers" for gripping metering tools and method for use it.

1.2. Claim : 14

Workstation with a metering system for a liquid

1.3. Claim : 16

Workstation with a heating device

1.4. Claims: 17-18

Workstation with a position sensor

2. Claims: workstation claims 11,12,
13 and 15 as depending directly from 1,
and method claims 29-32

Workstation characterized by features of the metering system comprising means for weighing solid samples and/or vibration means and method for use it.

3. Claims: 19-24

Metering tool for carrying solid powdery educt.

4. Claims: 25-28

Metering tool being a pipette for up-take.

Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee.

Information on patent family members

In national Application No
PCT/EP 03/10976

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5305650	A	26-04-1994	JP 2874328 B2 JP 4164257 A	24-03-1999 09-06-1992
US 5150937	A	29-09-1992	JP 2641571 B2 JP 3098782 A JP 2703655 B2 JP 4115893 A	13-08-1997 24-04-1991 26-01-1998 16-04-1992
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EP 0348077	A	27-12-1989	JP 2004604 A JP 2779937 B2 DE 68902430 D1 DE 68902430 T2 EP 0348077 A1 US 4928473 A	09-01-1990 23-07-1998 17-09-1992 25-02-1993 27-12-1989 29-05-1990
JP 2001310284	A	06-11-2001	NONE	
GB 2327628	A	03-02-1999	NONE	
FR 2068008	A	20-08-1971	FR 2068008 A5	20-08-1971
FR 2714465	A	30-06-1995	FR 2714465 A1 WO 9518365 A1	30-06-1995 06-07-1995